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P 120353Z FEB 08
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1651
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 6028
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 9697
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1615
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2115
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 7675
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 8303
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

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STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - IRANIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM
AND BURMA

1. LEAD STORIES: There were no Tuesday morning papers because of a press holiday. Most broadcasters gave top coverage to Monday's arrest of an Okinawa-based Marine on suspicion of sexually assaulting a 14-year-old local girl.

2. "New Source of Contention with West" The liberal Mainichi's Washington correspondent wrote (2/11): "Iran's decision to test a powerful new centrifugal separator reflects not just Tehran's determination to proceed with nuclear development but also the fact that it has been making steady progress. It is possible that such a test may develop into a new source of contention with the U.S. and Europe, which are demanding that Iran cease enriching uranium.... Because a successful test would enable Iran to replace the existing separator with a new model without radically changing the layout of the plant, this represents a rapid upgrading of Iran's ability to enrich uranium."

3. "Cosmetic Shift to Civilian Rule" The top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri reported from Bangkok (2/11): "Saturday's announcement by the Burmese junta of a national referendum on a draft constitution, to be followed by a general election ... represents Rangoon's policy of going forward with a 'cosmetic' shift to civilian power in defiance of calls by the international community to include domestic democratic forces. Concerns are mounting that UN mediation efforts to promote true democratization in Burma will falter."

DONOVAN